

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of October 30, 2008 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 1, 11, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, it was asserted that Claims 1, 11, and 16 recite "wherein the personal computing system is personal to the user and does not provide paid services to the user" which is unclear and confusing as applicant's invention subscribes to the Internet for services which is a paid service to the user, as one example; this makes the claim contradictory and also indefinite.

It is noted that a user may subscribe services from a remote service server and request services from the remote service server through his own personal computing system, but does not subscribe services from his own personal computing system. In other words, the user can access his own personal computing system free of charge from a wireless device remotely and request subscribed services from the service server through his own personal computing system. Therefore, the personal computing system is personal to the user and does not provide paid services to the user. In order to facilitate prosecution of the instant application, the limitation "wherein the personal computing system is personal to the user and does not provide paid services to the user" has been changed to " wherein the personal computing system is personal to the user and the user does not pay for services provided by the personal computing system" to avoid any confusion.

Applicants thus respectfully request that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-12, 14-17, and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,243,445 to Begeja, *et al.* (hereinafter Begeja).

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections, Applicants have amended Claims 1. Applicants have cancelled Claims 6-20. However, Applicants are not conceding that the remaining claims as originally formulated or the cancelled claims fail to present patentable subject matter. The amendments and cancellations are solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution. Accordingly, neither the amendments nor cancellations should be interpreted as the surrender of any subject matter, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the original version of any of the amended claims in any future divisional or continuation applications from the present application.

As discussed herein, the claim amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments.

Aspects of Applicants' Invention

It may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited references. One embodiment of the invention, as typified by amended Claim 1, is a method for remotely requesting information or services from a remote service server through a personal computing system.

The method can include receiving, in the personal computing system, a telephone call from a user registered with the personal computing system. The user is remotely located from the personal computing system. The personal computing system is personal to the user and the user does not pay for services provided by the personal computing

system. The personal computing system does not exercise administrative control over a plurality of clients, but rather functions as a client with respect to the remote service server.

The method can also include receiving a user spoken utterance over the telephone call; speech recognizing the user spoken utterance to determine a request for information or a service; formatting an electronic message according to the request; sending the electronic message over a communications network to the remote service server; receiving content in the personal computing system from the remote service server; converting the content to speech audio in the personal computing system; and playing the audio to the user over the telephone call.

See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0006], [0027], and [0037] to [0048]; see also Fig. 3.

The Claims Define Over The Prior Art

A portal is a Web site that serves as an entry point for accessing information. A portal effectively provides a central network location through which users can access information such as news, weather reports, stock quotes, electronic mail, and the like. Typically, the content provided through a portal and the manner in which the content is provided can be customized by the user. Accordingly, each user is able to access and view personalized information as well as various services through the portal in a user-specific manner. See Specification, paragraph [0002].

The primary mechanism for accessing portals has been through Web-enabled devices. Specifically, users have accessed portals via home computer systems having suitable Internet connections. So long as the user has access to such a computer system, the user can obtain information and other services from the portal. See Specification, paragraph [0003].

When away from the computer system, the user still may access a portal, albeit through some sort of wireless, Internet-enabled device. Traditionally, cellular telephones, for example those configured to communicate using Wireless Access Protocol (WAP), have provided users with access to portals. Despite the mobility afforded by cellular telephones, users are restricted to accessing information and services through small visual displays incorporated within the cellular telephone. See Specification, paragraph [0004].

In any case, to access information from a Web portal, users have been restricted to using devices having Internet connections. Moreover, users typically must subscribe to a fee service to access personalized information when mobile. See Specification, paragraph [0005].

The present invention provides a method for accessing Web content using voice commands through a telephony connection. In particular, the present invention allows a user to call a home computer system and request information or services over the established call. The home computer system can obtain the requested information or perform the user requested service. As such, the user can access information and content on the Internet, for example from a Web portal, through the user's own computer system. By allowing access to Web portals and other services such as electronic mail and instant messaging through a telephone, the need to subscribe to additional wireless and other paid services can be eliminated. See Specification, paragraph [0006].

One aspect of the present invention can include a method of accessing voice services through a personal computing system. The method can include receiving, in the personal computing system, a telephone call from a user registered with the personal computing system, wherein the user is remotely located from the personal computing system, receiving a user spoken utterance over the telephone call, and speech recognizing the user spoken utterance to determine a request for a voice service. The method also can include formatting an electronic message according to the request for a voice service and

sending the electronic message over a communications network to a remote computing system in accordance with the request for a voice service. See Specification, paragraph [0007].

As already discussed in the previous response, Begeja discloses a telephone-data network access device 102 that permits voice communication device users to access a data network 106 such as the Internet. It is noted that the telephone-data network access device 102 as disclosed in Begeja is not a personal or home computing system in the sense of the present invention. As described in col. 2, lines 47-67, of Begeja, a caller calls the telephone-data network access device 102 by dialing an 800 number, for example. The caller has to be a subscriber, or if the caller is not a subscriber, the telephone-data network access device 102 may send a message to the caller offering data network access services and requesting an account number such as a calling card number or a telephone number account to which the services may be billed. Therefore, the telephone-data network access device of Begeja does not provide the advantage of eliminating the need to subscribe to additional paid services when accessing a data network from a remotely located telephone by a user as in the present invention.

It was asserted in the Office Action that the limitation "wherein the personal computing system is personal to the user" still reads on Begeja as Begeja's user calls into the system and manages personal email and therefore the system is "personal" to the user. However, as already discussed in the previous response, since the telephone-data network access device 102 of Begeja provides paid services to a plurality of callers, the telephone-data network access device 102 is not "personal" to any particular user in the sense of the present invention and the user has to pay for services provided by the telephone-data network access device 102.

Accordingly, Begeja fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claim 1, as amended. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 defines

over the prior art. Furthermore, as each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1 while reciting additional features, Applicants further respectfully submit that the remaining claims likewise define over the prior art.

Applicants thus respectfully request that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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